

FOR INFORMATION
DA-2005-28
September 14, 2005

SUBJECT: *Phytophthora ramorum* (sudden oak death, ramorum blight & die back): Revision of Associated Regulated Articles (nursery stock); Additions to APHIS List of Hosts and Plants Associated with *Phytophthora ramorum*

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

On February 14, 2002, APHIS published an interim rule in the Federal Register for *Phytophthora ramorum* (7 CFR 301.92). This rule restricts the movement of certain restricted and regulated articles to prevent the artificial spread interstate of this disease-causing organism from areas where the disease is established. We also issued an Emergency Federal Order dated December 21, 2004, to regulate certain nurseries and plants to prevent the spread of the pathogen through nursery plants from California, Oregon and Washington. We have now learned that certain additional plants require regulating in order to control the artificial spread of this disease. The purpose of this SPRO is to provide notification that APHIS is listing and thus regulating eight new plants.

We received information from the Department of Environment, Forestry, and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) of the United Kingdom that they had officially identified three new plants associated with *P. ramorum*. These are: *Acer laevigatum* - Aceraceae (Evergreen maple), *Michelia doltsopa* - Magnoliaceae (Michelia), *Quercus petraea* - Fagaceae (Sessile oak). These three were found in green areas (a public garden or park-like setting).

A California researcher has alerted us that five plants found in the infested area of California demonstrated symptoms and have been determined to be infected with *P. ramorum*. These plants are: *Adiantum aleuticum* – Polypodiaceae (Western maidenhair fern), *Fraxinus latifolia* – Oleaceae (Oregon ash), *Osmorhiza berteroi* – Apiaceae (Sweet Cicely), *Torreya californica* – Taxaceae (California nutmeg), and *Vancouveria planipetala* – Berberidaceae (Redwood ivy). All of these were found in a forest setting in the infested areas of California.

Therefore, these plants are now listed in the APHIS List of Hosts and Plants Associated with *Phytophthora ramorum*. Effective immediately, the following are associated regulated articles which will be listed in 7 CFR 301.92 and in PPQ orders restricting the movement of nursery stock to prevent the spread of *P. ramorum*:

- *Acer laevigatum* - Aceraceae (Evergreen maple)
 - Frost sensitive tree native to China
 - Detected in Europe in green area
 - Symptoms – chlorotic leaves and leaf necrosis

- *Adiantum aleuticum* – Polypodiaceae (Western maidenhair fern)
 - Fern native to parts of the US
 - Detected in forested setting in California infested area
 - Symptoms – leaf necrosis
- *Fraxinus latifolia* – Oleaceae (Oregon ash)
 - Tree, native to US west coast
 - Detected in forested setting in California infested area
 - Symptom – Leaf necrosis
- *Michelia doltsopa* - Magnoliaceae (Michelia)
 - Small tree, native to China
 - Detected in green areas of the United Kingdom
 - Symptom – necrotic leaf lesions
- *Osmorhiza berteroi* – Apiaceae (Sweet Cicely)
 - Perennial herb, native to US
 - Detected in green area in California infested area
 - Symptoms – necrotic leaf lesions, marginal necrosis and leaf dieback
- *Quercus petraea* - Fagaceae (Sessile oak)
 - Large tree, native to UK
 - Detected in green areas of the United Kingdom
 - Symptom – bole canker
- *Torreya californica* – Taxaceae (California nutmeg)
 - Tree, native to California
 - Detected in forested setting in California infested area
 - Symptoms – wilted necrotic shoots and twig cankers
- *Vancouveria planipetala* – Berberidaceae (Redwood ivy)
 - Perennial herb, native to US west coast
 - Detected in forested setting in California infested area
 - Symptom – necrotic leaf lesions

This action is authorized under the Plant Protection Act, as amended, Section 412(a), which authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to prohibit or restrict the movement in interstate commerce of any plant, plant part, or article, if the Secretary determines the prohibition or restriction is necessary to prevent the dissemination of a plant pest within the United States.

This action is also authorized by 7 CFR 301.92-2(b)(2) which designates as restricted articles any other product or article that an inspector determines to present a risk of spreading *P. ramorum*. This designation requires the inspector to notify the person in possession of the product or article that it is an associated article.

In accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, this action will be published as a regulatory update in the Federal Register for public comment.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Richard L. Dunkle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard L. Dunkle
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine